

West Byfleet Allotments Newsletter

Issue 15, May 2014

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It's Competition Time

The Woking Allotments competition judging will take place **on 9th & 10th of July**. In addition to the Tunis Cup for the best kept allotment site, there are individual ploholders prizes awarded. **If you want to be nominated** for any of these categories, please let me know before **23rd June**.

Individual categories are:

- Ted Smith Shield Best Plot in Borough
- Leam challenge Shield Best 1st Year Plot holder
- Benstead Scroll Best Plot Cultivated by a Gardener over 70 Years of Age
- Ashley Slocock Best Plot Cultivated by a Lady

Attached separately are the judging criteria.

Last year WBA ploholders were awarded 2nd prize for best plot and 2nd and 8th for best ladies plot, whilst the site went from 4th to 11th for best allotment site.

Remember, as a ploholder you are expected to keep your paths mowed along with the border of your plot on the road. Any extra areas of grass you feel you can help with is of course always welcome.

Urban Foxes

As most of you know we have foxes on the allotments. Some people view these as interesting wildlife, some as something to be encouraged, and some as pests. Urban foxes are a feature of British urban and suburban surroundings and concerns about their impact are common.

Attached is a leaflet produced by Bristol City Council which is both an interesting read and lays out the facts and dispels some myths.

The foxes on our allotments are a mixed blessing, both helping to keep down the rabbit and pigeon population but also damaging crops. Whatever your stance I would ask you to not feed them or cause them harm.

Cages and Netting

More and more of us are protecting our fruit and veg by erecting cages and netting. And quite rightly so - we're not growing fruit and veg to feed the birds and other wildlife.

Please! Do not run your cages and netting right up to the edges of paths. This makes mowing difficult, and can snag wheelbarrows, which will damage your netting and annoy your neighbours.

Trading Hut Stock

Following some brisk trading in the last month, we have again re-stocked. We now have more:

8' canes

Chicken pellets (large 20Kg bags) still at a very competitive price.

Compost (60L)

Growbags (33L)

Organic slug treatment (new 2Kg boxes)

Sorry we are out of stock of 4' canes and so are our suppliers!

Dates for Your Diary

Horticultural shows are fun and a nice way to show off your veg. If you haven't entered one before why not consider it – after all, a show isn't a show without entries, and it's not all about winning – or is it!

Woking Allotments Judging	9 th & 10 th July
Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show	12 July
Byfleet Parish Day Show	19 July
Chertsey Show	9 & 10 August
Woodham & New Haw Show	6 September

END